

Sincerely,
Blair Lee III
Acting Governor

House Bill No. 1096 - Motorcycle Helmets

AN ACT concerning

Motorcycle Helmets

FOR the purpose of requiring only minors to wear protective headgear when operating or riding on a motorcycle.

May 29, 1978

Honorable John Hanson Eriscoe
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 1096.

This bill repeals the requirement that a person who is operating or riding on a motorcycle must wear protective headgear. Instead, House Bill 1096 would apply this requirement only to an operator or rider who is a minor.

This law was originally enacted by the 1968 Maryland General Assembly. At that time, the statute also required the wearing of a face shield or goggles. That portion of the law has since been repealed. However, the Maryland mandatory helmet law has survived. I believe it has done so because it offers a practical and needed protection. I believe that there is solid evidence of its need.

However, in the past three years, the trend in State capitols has been to repeal similar helmet laws. At one time almost every State had a mandatory helmet law; now many have acted to repeal such laws. This trend, I believe, ultimately is reflected in and contributes to the nationwide pattern of increased traffic accidents and deaths.

The State of Maryland has an enviable record of traffic safety for all classes of motorists. I am proud of this record. But the record itself is not important; it is the safety of the motoring public which is important.